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**PARAMETER.** *n. f.* The latus rectum of a parabola, is a third proportional to the abscissa and any ordinate; so that the square of the ordinate is always equal to the rectangle under the parameter and abscissa: but, in the ellipsis and hyperbola, it has a different proportion. *Harris.*

**PARAMOUNT.** *adj.* [par and mount.]

1. Superiour; having the highest jurisdiction; as lord paramount, the chief of the feignory.

Leagues within the state are ever pernicious to monarchies; for they raise an obligation, paramount to obligation of sovereignty, and make the king, tanquam unus ex nobis. *Bacon.*

The dogmatist's opinioned assurance is paramount to argument, *Glanville.*

If all power be derived from Adam, by divine institution, this is a right antecedent and paramount to all government; and therefore the positive laws of men cannot determine that which is itself the foundation of all law. *Locke.*

Mankind, seeing the apostles possessed of a power plainly paramount to the powers of all the known beings, whether angels or demons, could not question their being inspired by God. *West on the Resurrection.*

2. Eminent; of the highest order.

John a Chamber was hanged upon a gibbet raised a stage higher in the midst of a square gallows, as a traitor paramount; and a number of his chief accomplices were hanged upon the lower story round him. *Bacon.*

**PARAMOUNT.** *n. f.* The chief.

In order came the grand infernal peers, 'Midst came their mighty paramount. *Milton's P. L.*

**PARAMOUR.** *n. f.* [par and amour, Fr.]

1. A lover or wooer.

Upon the floor  
A lovely bevy of fair ladies sat,  
Court of many a jolly paramour,  
The which them did in modestly amate,  
And each one fought his lady to aggrate. *Fa. Queen.*

No season then for her  
To wanton with the sun her lusty paramour. *Milt.*

2. A mistress. It is obsolete in both senses, though not inelegant or unmusical.

That unsubstantial death is amorous,  
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps  
Thee here in dark to be his paramour. *Shakespeare.*

**PARAMYPH.** *n. f.* [παρά and μυφή, paramyphē, Fr.]

1. A bride-man; one who leads the bride to her marriage.

The Timnian bride  
Had not so soon prefer'd  
Thy paramyph, worthless to thee compar'd,  
Successor in thy bed. *Milton's Agonistes.*

2. One who countenances or supports another.

Sin hath got a paramyph and a solicitor, a warrant and an advocate. *Taylor's Worthy Communicant.*

**PARAPHEM.** *n. f.* [παρά and φημι, parapemē, Fr.] A brazen table fixed to a pillar, on which laws and proclamations were anciently engraved: also a table set up publicly, containing an account of the rising and setting of the stars, eclipses of the sun and moon, the seasons of the year, &c. whence astrologers give this name to the tables, on which they draw figures according to their art. *Philips.*

Our forefathers, observing the course of the sun, and marking certain mutations to happen in his progress through the zodiac, set them down in their parapemē, or astronomical canons. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**PARAPET.** *n. f.* [parapet, Fr. parapetto, Italian.] A wall breast high.

There was a wall or parapet of teeth set in our mouth to restrain the petulance of our words. *Ben Johnson.*

**PARAPHIMOSIS.** *n. f.* [παρά and φημι, paraphimosis, Fr.] A disease when the preputium cannot be drawn over the glans.

**PARAPHERNALIA.** *n. f.* [Lat. parapherna, Fr.] Goods in the wife's disposal.

**PARAPHRASE.** *n. f.* [παρά and φημι, paraphrase, Fr.] A loose interpretation; an explanation in many words.

All the laws of nations were but a paraphrase upon this standing rectitude of nature, that was ready to enlarge itself into suitable determinations, upon all emergent objects and occasions. *South's Sermons.*

In paraphrase, or translation with latitude, the author's words are not so strictly followed as his sense, and that too amplified, but not altered: such is Mr. Waller's translation of Virgil's fourth Æneid. *Dryden.*

**TO PARAPHRASE.** *v. a.* [paraphrase, Fr. παράφρασις.] To interpret with laxity of expression; to translate loosely.

We are put to construe and paraphrase our own words, to free ourselves from the ignorance and malice of our adversaries. *Stillington's Def. of Dis. on Romish Idolatry.*

What needs he paraphrase on what we mean, *Dryden.*  
We were at worst but wanton; he's obscene.  
Where translation is impracticable, they may paraphrase. —  
But it is intolerable, that under a pretence of paraphrasing

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and translating, a way should be suffered of treating authors to a manifest disadvantage. *Fulton on the Classics.*

**PARAPHRASE.** *n. f.* [paraphrase, Fr. παράφρασις.] A lax interpreter; one who explains in many words.

The fittest for public audience are such, as following a middle course between the rigor of literal translators and the liberty of paraphrasis, do, with great shortness and plainness, deliver the meaning. *Hooker.*

The chaldean paraphrase renders Gerah by Meath. *Arbut.*

**PARAPHRASICAL.** *adj.* [from paraphrase.] Lax in interpretation; not literal; not verbal.

**PARAPHRASIS.** *n. f.* [παρά and φημι, paraphrasis, Fr.]

Paraphrenitis is an inflammation of the diaphragm. The symptoms are a violent fever, a most exquisite pain increased upon inspiration, by which it is distinguished from a pleurisy, in which the greatest pain is in expiration. *Arbut.*

**PARASANG.** *n. f.* [parasang, low Latin.] A Persian measure of length.

Since the mind is not able to frame an idea of any space without parts, instead thereof it makes use of the common measures, which, by familiar use, in each country, have imprinted themselves on the memory; as inches and feet, or cubits and parasangs. *Locke.*

**PARASITE.** *n. f.* [parasite, Fr. parasite, Latin.] One that frequents rich tables, and earns his welcome by flattery.

He is a flatterer,  
A parasite, a keeper back of death,  
Who gently would dissolve the bands of life,  
Which false hopes linger. *Shakespeare.*

Most smiling, smooth, detested parasites,  
Courteous destroyers, affable wolves, meek bears,  
You fools of fortune. *Shakespeare.*

Come, you parasite, answer me  
Directly to this question. *Shakespeare.*

Diogenes, when mice came about him, as he was eating, said, I see, that even Diogenes nourisheth parasites. *Bacon.*

Thou, with trembling fear,  
Or like a fawning parasite, obeyed;  
Then to thyself ascrib'd the truth foretold. *Milton.*

The people sweat not for their king's delight,  
To enrich a pimp, or raise a parasite. *Dryden.*

**PARASITICAL.** *adj.* [parasiticus, Fr. from parasite.] Flat-  
**PARASITICK.** *adj.* tending; wheedling.

The bishop received small thanks for his parasitick presentation. *Hakewill on Providence.*

Some parasitick preachers have dared to call those martyrs, who died fighting against me. *King Charles.*

**PARASOL.** *n. f.* A small sort of canopy or umbrella carried over the head, to shelter from rain and the heat of the sun. *Di.*

**PARASYNAXIS.** *n. f.* In the civil law, a conventicle or unlawful meeting.

**TO PARBOIL.** *v. a.* [parboillier, French.] To half boil; to boil in part.

Parboil two large capons upon a soft fire, by the space of an hour, till, in effect, all the blood be gone. *Bacon.*

From the sea into the ship we turn,  
Like parboil'd wretches, on the coals to burn. *Dante.*

Like the scum, starved men did draw,  
From parboil'd shoes and boots. *Dante.*

**TO PARBREAK.** *v. n.* [brecker, Dutch.] To vomit.

**PARBREAK.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] Vomit.

Her filthy parbreak all the place defiled has. *Fa. Queen.*

**PARCEL.** *n. f.* parcella, French; particula, Latin.]

1. A small bundle.

2. A part of the whole taken separately.

Women, Silvius, had they mark'd him  
In parcels, as I did, would have gone near  
To fall in love with him. *Shakespeare.*

I drew from her a prayer of earnest heart,  
That I would all my pilgrimage dilate;  
Whereof by parcels she had something heard,  
But not distinctively. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

An inventory thus importing,  
The several parcels of his plate, his treasure, *Shakespeare.*  
Rich stuffs and ornaments of household.  
I have known pensions given to particular persons, any one of which, if divided into smaller parcels, and distributed to those, who distinguish themselves by wit or learning, would answer the end. *Swift.*

The same experiments succeed on two parcels of the white of an egg, only it grows somewhat thicker upon mixing with an acid. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

3. A quantity or mass.

What can be rationally conceived in so transparent a substance as water for the production of these colours, besides the various sizes of its fluid and globular parcels. *Newton.*

4. A number of persons, in contempt.

This youthful parcel  
Of noble batchelors stand at my bestowing. *Shakespeare.*

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5. Any number or quantity in contempt.

They came to this conclusion; that, unless they could, by a parcel of fair words and pretences, engage them into a confederacy, there was no good to be done. *L'Estrange.*

**TO PARCEL.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To divide into portions.

If they allot and parcel out several perfections to several deities, do they not, by this, assert contradictions, making deity only to such a measure perfect; whereas a deity implies perfection beyond all measure. *South's Sermons.*

Those ghostly kings would parcel out my pow'r,  
And all the fates of my land devour. *Dryden.*

2. To make up into a mass.

What a wounding shame,  
That mine own servant should  
Parcel the sum of my disgraces by  
Addition of his envy! *Shakespeare.*

**PARCENER.** *n. f.* [In common law.] When one dies possessed of an estate, and having issue only daughters, or his sisters be his heirs; so that the lands descend to those daughters or sisters: these are called parceners, and are but as one heir. *Di.*

**PARCENERY.** *n. f.* [from parcener, French.] A holding or occupancy of land by more persons pro indiviso, or by joint tenants, otherwise called coparceners: for if they refuse to divide their common inheritance, and chuse rather to hold it jointly, they are said to hold in parcenary. *Cowel.*

**TO PARCH.** *v. a.* [from parcher, says Junius; from percoquo, says Skinner; neither of them seem satisfied with their conjecture: perhaps from parchus, burnt, to perust, to parch; perhaps from parchement, the effect of fire upon parchment being almost proverbial.] To burn slightly and superficially; to scorch; to dry up.

Hath thy fiery heart so parch'd thine entrails,  
That not a tear can fall. *Shakespeare.*

Did he so often lodge in open field  
In winter's cold, and summer's parching heat,  
To conquer France. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*

Torrid heat,  
And vapours as the Libyan air adust,  
Began to parch that temperate clime. *Milt. Par. Lost.*

I'm stupify'd with sorrow, past relief  
Of tears; parch'd up and wither'd with my grief. *Dryden.*

Without this circular motion of our earth, one hemisphere would be condemn'd to perpetual cold and darkness, the other continually roasted and parched by the sun beams. *Ray.*

The Syrian star  
With his sultry breath infects the sky;  
The ground below is parch'd, the heav'ns above us fry. *Dryden's Horace.*

Full fifty years  
I have endur'd the biting winter's blast,  
And the fever heats of parching summer. *Rowe.*

He is like a man distressed with thirst in the parched places of the wilderness, he searches every pit, but finds no water. *Rogers's Sermons.*

**TO PARCH.** *v. n.* To be scorched.

We were better parch in Africk sun,  
Than in the pride and salt scorn of his eyes. *Shakespeare.*

If to prevent the acrospiring, it be thrown thin, many corns will dry and parch into barley. *Mort. Husband.*

**PARCMENT.** *n. f.* [parcment, French; pergamena, Latin.] Skins dressed for the writer. Among traders, the skins of sheep are called parchment, those of calves vellum.

Is not this a lamentable thing, that the skin of an innocent lamb should be made parchment; that parchment, being scribbled o'er, should undo a man? *Shakespeare's Hen. VI.*

In the coffin, that had the books, they were found as fresh as if newly written, being written in parchment, and covered with watch candles of wax. *Bacon.*

Like flying shades before the clouds we shew,  
We shrink like parchment in consuming flame. *Dryden.*

**PARCHMENT-MAKER.** *n. f.* [parchment and maker.] He who dresses parchment.

**PARD.** *n. f.* pardus, paradis, Latin.] The leopard;

**PARDAL.** *n. f.* in poetry, any of the spotted beasts.

The pardale swift, and the tyger cruel. *Fa. Queen.*

As fox to lambs, as wolf to heifer's calf;  
As pard to the hind, or step-dame to her son. *Shakespeare.*

Ten brace of greyhounds, snowy fair,  
And tall as stags, ran loose, and cours'd around his chair,  
A match for pards in flight, in grappling for the bear. *Dryden.*

**TO PARDON.** *v. a.* [pardonner, French.]

1. To excuse an offender.

When I beheld you in Cilicia,  
An enemy to Rome, I pardon'd you. *Dryden.*

2. To forgive a crime.

3. To remit a penalty.

That thou may'st see the difference of our spirit,  
I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it. *Shakespeare.*

4. Pardon me, is a word of civil denial, or slight apology.

Sir, pardon me, it is a letter from my brother. *Shakespeare.*

**PARDON.** *n. f.* [pardon, Fr. from the verb.]

1. Forgiveness of an offender.

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2. Forgiveness of a crime; indulgence.

He that pleaseth great men, shall get pardon for iniquity. *Eccles. xx. 27.*

A slight pamphlet, about the elements of architecture, hath been entertained with some pardon among my friends. *Wotton.*

3. Remission of penalty.

4. Forgiveness received.

A man may be safe as to his condition, but, in the mean time, dark and doubtful as to his apprehensions; secure in his pardon, but miserable in the ignorance of it; and so passing all his days in the disconsolate, uneasy vicissitudes of hopes and fears, at length go out of the world, not knowing whither he goes. *South's Sermons.*

5. Warrant of forgiveness, or exemption from punishment.

The battle done, and they within our power,  
Shall never see his pardon. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

**PARDONABLE.** *adj.* [pardonable, Fr. from pardon.] Venial; excusable.

That which we do being evil, is notwithstanding by so much more pardonable, by how much the exigencies of so doing, or the difficulty of doing otherwise is greater, unless this necessity or difficulty have originally risen from ourselves. *Hooker.*

A blind man sitting in the chimney corner is pardonable enough, but sitting at the helm, he is intolerable. *South.*

What English readers, unacquainted with Greek or Latin, will believe me, when we confess we derive all that is pardonable in us from ancient fountains. *Dryden.*

**PARDONABLENESS.** *n. f.* [from pardonable.] Venialness; susceptibility of pardon.

Saint John's word is, all sin is transgression of the law; Saint Paul's, the wages of sin is death: put these two together, and this conceit of the natural pardonableness of sin vanishes away. *Hall.*

**PARDONABLY.** *adv.* [from pardonable.] Venially; excusably.

I may judge when I write more or less pardonably. *Dryden.*

**PARDONER.** *n. f.* [from pardon.]

1. One who forgives another.

This is his pardon, purchas'd by such sin,  
For which the pardoner himself is in. *Shakespeare.*

2. Fellows that carried about the pope's indulgencies, and sold them to such as would buy them, against whom Luther incensed the people of Germany. *Cowel.*

**TO PARE.** *v. a.* [This word is reasonably deduced by Skinner from the French phrase, parer les ongles, to dress the horse's hoofs when they are shaved by the farrier: thus we first said, pare your nails; and from thence transferred the word to general use.] To cut off extremities or the surface; to cut away by little and little; to diminish.

The creed of Athanasius, and that sacred hymn of glory, than which nothing doth sound more heavenly in the ears of faithful men, are now reckoned as superfluities, which we must in any case pare away, lest we cloy God with too much service. *Hooker.*

I have not alone  
Impley'd you where high profits might come home;  
But par'd my present havings to bestow  
My bounties upon you. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

I am a man, whom fortune hath cruelly scratch'd.  
— 'Tis too late to pare her nails now. *Shakespeare.*

The lion, mov'd with pity, did endure  
To have his princely paws all par'd away. *Shakespeare.*

The king began to pare a little the privilege of clergy, ordaining that clerks convict, should be burned in the hand. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

Pick out of tales the mirth, but not the sin.  
He pares his apple, that will cleanly feed. *Herbert.*

Whoever will partake of God's secrets, must first look into his own, he must pare off whatsoever is amiss, and not without holiness approach to the holiest of all holies. *Taylor.*

All the mountains were pared off the earth, and the surface of it lay even, or in an equal convexity every where with the surface of the sea. *Burnet.*

The most poetical parts, which are description and images, were to be pared away, when the body was swollen into too large a bulk for the representation of the stage. *Dryden.*

The sword, as it was justly drawn by us, so can it scarce safely be sheathed, till the power of the great troubler of our peace be so far pared and reduced, as that we may be under no apprehensions. *Atterbury.*

'Twere well if she would pare her nails. *Pope.*

**PAREGORICK.** *adj.* [παρηγορητικός.] Having the power in medicine to comfort, mollify and assuage. *Di.*

**PARENCHYMA.** *n. f.* [παρηνχυμα.] A spongy or porous substance; in physics, a part through which the blood is strained for its better fermentation and perfection. *Di.*

**PARENCHYMATOUS.** *adj.* [from parenchyma.] Relating to parenchyma.

**PARENCHYMOUS.** *adj.* the parenchyma; spongy.

Ten thousand seeds of the plant, hart's-tongue, hardly make the bulk of a pepper corn. Now the covers and true body of each seed, the parenchymatous and ligneous parts of both moderately multiplied, afford an hundred thousand millions of formed atoms in the space of a pepper corn. *Grew.*

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